

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 003138

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/12/2014

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [IT](#) [NATO](#) [GLOBAL](#) [DEFENSE](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON US GLOBAL DEFENSE POSTURE REVIEW:
ITALIAN RESPONSE

REF: A. STATE 174698

[B](#). ROME 2631

Classified By: A/DCM Tom Countryman for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) A/DCM and Poloff delivered reftel demarche to the Italian MFA and Prime Minister's office on August 13. The MFA, which was already aware of the main elements of GDPR, urged that the President's and other USG public statements stress that decisions will be made in close consultation with allies and fully consistent with existing treaty obligations. End summary.

[1](#)2. (C) A/DCM and Poloff delivered Ref A demarche to MFA Acting DG for Multilateral Political Affairs Claudio Bisogniero and Acting NATO Office Director Carlo Lo Cascio. Bisogniero, who will forward the message to FM Frattini's office said he appreciated the U.S.' informing Italy beorehand of President Bush's speech, noting that eposturing is a "delicate issue." He said that Itly looks forward to the resumption of bilateral alks this fall. He further stated that Italy understands that the US. remains committed to workig within the framework of existing treaties and s not retreating into a fortress America. To ensure that GDPR goes over well with Italian publicopinion, however, the United States needs to make t clear that any changes will occur in close consltation with NATO and other allies and fully consisten with NATO and other treaty obligations.

[1](#)3. (C) Noting that DG for Multilateral Political Affairs Giampiero Massolo had discussed the issue with Italian Chief of Defense (CHOD) Admiral Giampaolo di Paola the previous day, Bisogniero commented that one issue that the MFA has been discussing with the MOD -- and that A/S Bloomfield raised during his June visit to Rome (Ref B) -- was whether the speech on restructuring would focus on freedom of maneuver. A/DCM replied that his understanding was that the President would describe a shift from a heavy ground presence to more flexible forces, but would probably not address freedom of deployment in his speech.

[1](#)4. (C) Our MFA interlocutors made note of the fact that some countries might be mentioned by name in the President's speech and sought confirmation that Italy -- at least in terms of specific plans -- would not be mentioned. Bisogniero also asked specifically about Germany and North Korea. A/DCM replied that while the speech would be general in nature and not get into the details of specific countries, Germany might be mentioned due to the significant reduction in troops there. A/DCM emphasized that this reduction was not politically motivated. South Korea might also be mentioned, but A/DCM stressed that any movement there does not signal a reduction in the U.S. commitment to defend South Korea.

[1](#)5. (C) PolOff also delivered the talking points to PM Diplomatic Advisor Bruno Archi. Archi, who had already been in touch with Bisogniero on the issue, said the PM's office would consult with the MFA and convey our message to PM Berlusconi. (Note. The PM is currently vacationing at his summer residence in Sardinia, where he will be joined by British PM Tony Blair August 16-17. End note.)

Visit Rome's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/rome/index.cf> m

SEMBLER

NNNN

2004ROME03138 - Classification: CONFIDENTIAL